



*CONNECTICUT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL*  
*State of Connecticut*  
*Department of Agriculture*

Senator Donald Williams  
Senator Martin Looney  
Senator Toni Harp  
Senator Edward Meyer  
Senator John McKinney

Senator Andrew Roraback  
Representative Christopher Donovan  
Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr.  
Representative John Geragosian  
Representative Richard Roy

Dear Legislative Leaders:

On behalf of the CT Food Policy Council I am writing today to urge you to preserve the funding for programs in the current budget and in the proposed 2009-2011 budgets that are covered by PA 05-228 - An Act Concerning Farm Land Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation (also known as the Community Investment Act of 2005). We understand that there are very difficult economic decisions to be made for the state of Connecticut but we urge you to maintain the integrity of these programs.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) placed into law our state's commitments to protect and preserve the unique character of Connecticut for future generations. Public support for the creation of the Community Investment Act and its dedicated revenue stream was based on the promise that this revenue would be permanently directed to farmland, open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. Any raid on the Community Investment Account fund --even temporary--could erode public confidence in future legislative actions.

The Food Policy Council was created to address food security issues in Connecticut; issues related to food production, food access and distribution and consumer concerns. **Our state's food security is strengthened by the ongoing investment in CIA funded-programs at the Department of Agriculture, including the very successful CT Agriculture Viability Grants program, CT Farm Link program, CT-Grown program, as well as the preservation of farmland. In association with these programs, CIA supports full time and part time staff at the Department of Agriculture who are critical to maintaining a certain level of state service to growers and consumers of agricultural products.**

The programs funded by the Community Investment Act are economic drivers for the state. They make it possible for farmland to remain in use as farmland and support our economy. They create jobs and capital projects for affordable housing construction and preservation of historic structures. It would be a grave error to stop the forward momentum that these programs have created for Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Linda Drake  
Chair, CT Food Policy Council  
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